



*Cobb County...Expect the Best!*

## **Cobb County Government Complete Streets Policy - January 2009**

**Purpose:** To assure that new roadway construction and existing roadway improvement projects on County roadways include consideration for adequate infrastructure, where appropriate and feasible, for bicyclists, pedestrians, users of public transit of all ages and abilities, and the physically disabled.

**Applicability:** Applies to all roadways within the County.

**Rationale:** Some of Cobb County's existing roadways where bicycling and walking are prevalent lack the infrastructure needed to make these means of travel safe. These roadways may lack sidewalks and/or crosswalks, have lanes that are too narrow to share with bicyclists, and make insufficient accommodation for transit users or the physically disabled. There is a need to improve accommodations for a growing segment of the County's population that travels by means other than the automobile.

**Background:** This policy supports the Department's Mission Statement, which is to *plan, design, construct, operate and maintain a multi-modal transportation network in a fiscally responsible manner to promote safe and efficient travel throughout Cobb County.*

The County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan calls for the incorporation of Complete Streets into the planning, design and construction of all future roadways when adequate right-of-way is available.

The Cobb County Senior Adult Transportation Study (SATS) recommends the use of Complete Streets principles in the planning and design of transportation infrastructure. Complete Streets principles also play a large role in Tier 2 of the 3-step implementation program for the SATS.

The Atlanta Regional Commission's Atlanta Region Bicycle Transportation and Pedestrian Walkways Plan was developed to address the infrastructure and policy needs for the 13-county ARC planning area, which includes Cobb County. Amongst the plan's policy recommendations is the following: *Incorporate the concepts of routine accommodation and Complete Streets into planning, design, and construction of all future roadways and adopt development review regulations requiring developers to build bicycle and pedestrian facilities as integral components of their transportation infrastructure.*

Complete Streets policies and design practices played a large role in the revision of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. In keeping with the long-standing practice of adhering to AASHTO standards and guidelines, the Department sees fit for it to establish this policy formally.

**Policy :** Cobb County will implement the Complete Streets concept by considering safe access for all users, to include motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users, including individuals with physical disabilities and senior citizens, in the planning, design, construction and operation of streets within its jurisdiction.